

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

COME-00 ACDA-07 A-01 OPR-02 EB-08 USSS-00 /099 W

-----252323Z 114164 /63

R 252055Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9742

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 2306

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 18-24, 1977. THESE REPORTS ARE FRAGMENTARY AND CANNOT IN ALL CASES BE FURTHER CONFIRMED.

2. MAR. 18: AT 1955 HRS POLICE HQ GENERAL OPERATIONS WARNED FEDERAL POLICE TO EXPECT ATTACKS AND BOMBINGS DURING FORTHCOMING WEEKEND.

2043 HRS - POLICE REPORTED THAT A POLICE OFFICER WAS KILLED BY A TERRORIST IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE AND THAT ALL OFFICERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO REPEL EXPECTED ATTACKS WITH MAXIMUM ENERGY.

MAR 19: 0200 HRS - A SHOOTOUT OCCURRED BETWEEN LOCAL POLICE AND THREE PERSONS WHO WERE PRESUMABLY TERRORISTS. TWO OF THE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND ONE ESCAPED. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE AREA OF VICTOR HUGO
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AND ALVAREZ JONTE.

LA PRENSA ON MAR. 20 REPORTED THAT ON MAR. 19 AT 1800 HRS. A BOMB WAS DETONATED AT A BUILDING LOCATED ON JUNCAL 1606. A TERRORIST THAT WAS CARRYING THE BOMB WAS KILLED IN THE EXPLOSION. POLICE SPECULATED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS TO BE PLACED IN THE APARTMENT OF A

PROFESSOR OF THE ENGINEERING FACULTY OF BUENOS AIRES UNIVERSITY.

AT 1115 HRS. A PACKAGE CONTAINING AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS FOUND ON A BRIDGE AT F. ALCORTA IN THE VICINITY OF PALERMO PARK. THE BOMB WAS DETONATED BY THE BOMB SQUAD.

AT 1125 HRS POLICE REPORTED THAT AT URIBURU 674 AND NEWSPAPERMAN FROM LA OPINION WAS KILLED. POLICE STATED THAT NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COULD BE GIVEN CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

AT 1220 HRS AT RAMOS MEJIA, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE A GROUP OF YOUNG PERSONS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND PISTOLS AND CLAIMING TO BE MONTO-NEROS, STOLE THREE CITROEN CARS FROM A LOCAL GARAGE.

AT 1225 HRS IN THE VICINITY OF PAVILION #2 AT THE CIUDAD UNIVERSITY, A YOUNG MAN WAS FOUND FLOATING IN THE RIVER. THE MAN HAD BEEN TIED AND SHOT SEVERAL TIMES. NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

AT 2021 HRS A BOMB WAS DETONATED AT GODOY CRUZ AND AV. LIBERTADOR IN A VACANT APARTMENT. THE EXPLOSION CAUSED MATERIAL DAMAGE ONLY. (SOUTH CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICAN AMB RESIDES IN THIS BUILDING BUT NOT ON THE FLOOR ON WHICH BOMB DETONATED.)

BETWEEN 2200 AND 2400 HRS POLICE AND MILITARY RESPONDED TO A TERRORIST CONFRONTATION AT DORREGO AND ARCE. TERRORISTS ESCAPED INTO PALERMO RACE TRACK AND HID THEMSELVES IN THE SPECTATOR STANDS. POLICE AND MILITARY RESPONDED USING A HELICOPTER WITH SEARCHLIGHTS. FOUR TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND ONE ARMY OFFICER AND ONE POLICE OFFICER WERE WOUNDED. BOTH THE BOMBING INCIDENTS AND THE TERRORIST CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE IN PROXIMITY TO THE AMB RESIDENCE.

MAR. 21 AT APPROX. 2000 HRS INCENDIARY BOMBS WERE EXPLODED AT FOLLOWING ADDRESSES: ESMERALDA AND CORDOBA, BANCO RIO; RIVADAVIA 5356; GUAYAQUIL 659; ESMERALDO AND CORRIENTES, BANCO MERCANTIL. BOMBS CAUSED MATERIAL DAMAGE; THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

PAMPHLET BOMBS WERE SET DURING THE SAME PERIOD
AT CERRITO AND DIAGONAL NORTE (LARGE JEWELRY CO.);
MARCELO T. ALVEAR 512 (LARGE JEWELER); SANTA FE
1700, (BANCO SUPERVIELLE); SANTA FE 1100;
URUGUAY 776, AND MONTEVIDEO AND LAS HERAS
(BANCO RIO). THE PAMPHLET BOMBS WERE ATTRIBUTED
TO ERP TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. THERE WERE ALSO
PACKAGES CONTAINING FAKE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES,
LEFT AT PARAGUAY 970; SUIPACHA 428;
PARAGUAY 780 AND PASCO AND SAN JUAN.

AT 2055 HRS POLICE INFORMED ALL PERSONNEL THAT
THEY HAD INFORMATION THAT TERRORIST GROUPS WOULD
TRY TO ATTACK OR PLACE EXPLOSIVES AT BANKS,
CAR AGENCIES AND AT THE HOMES AND ADDRESSES OF
IMPORTANT PERSONS.

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LA PRENSA ALSO REPORTED ON MAR. 21 THAT A BOMB EXPLODED
AT THE IKA RENAULT DONATI HERMANOS CO. LOCATED AT LIBERTA-
DOR 896. BOMB CAUSED ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE.

MAR. 22: POLICE STATED THAT AS THIS IS THE WEEK OF THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMED FORCES IN GOVT, THEY HAVE
INFORMATION THAT TERRORIST GROUPS WILL MAKE ISOLATED
ATTACKS ON TARGETS AND THEREFORE ALL POLICE AND INFANTRY
PERSONNEL ARE ORDERED TO BE FULLY ALERT AND REPEL ANY
SUCH ATTACKS.

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 252055Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 2306

AT 2020 HRS AT SARMIENTO AND RECONQUISTA, THE ENTRANCE OF THE BANCO FEDERAL ARGENTINO, AN UNKNOWN PERSON LEFT AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE THAT WAS DEACTIVATED BY THE POLICE BOMB SQUAD. ON MAR. 22 MLGRP NOTIFIED THAT A MR. ANIBAL BATTISTA. DIRECTOR OF CELLOSE CO. ARGENTINA, WAS KIDNAPPED ON HIS WAY TO WORK AT 7 A.M. MAR. 21. THE KIDNAPPING TOOK PLACE IN THE BUENOS AIRES SUBURBS. AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF RANSOM HAS BEEN DEMANDED AND ONE OF THE VEHICLES USED IN THE KIDNAPPING WAS LOCATED. THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN STOLEN APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR, PRESUMABLY FOR USE IN THE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT. REPORTEDLY MR. BATTISTA HAD ARMED GUARDS UNTIL APPROXIMATELY SIX WEEKS AGO.)

MAR. 23 AT 1120 HRS. THERE WAS A REPORT OF A BOMB HAVING BEEN PLANTED AT CASTEX 3655 (BUILDING WHERE COL. TART LIVES). POLICE BOMB SQUAD RESPONDED TO THE SCENE, SEARCHED THE BUILDING AND ADVISED PERSONS NOT TO RE-OCCUPY THE BUILDING FOR 12 HRS. (THE BOMB THREAT WAS NOT DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT COL. TART.)

AT 2050 HRS, POLICE PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN
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A SHOOTING WITH TWO PERSONS WHO STOLE A PEUGEOT 504 AND ESCAPED. SAME GROUP SUBSEQUENTLY STOLE A FIAT 1500 AND ESCAPED.

AT APPROX. 2100 HRS, EMBASSY SECURITY PATROL DISCOVERED LEAFLETS WITH MONTONERO SLOGANS AND INSIGNIAS ON THEM ON THE BLOCK THAT USIS PAO WOODWARD RESIDES. LEAFLETS STATED THAT THE MONTONERO RESISTANCE WILL TRIUMPH AND MAR. 24, 1976, TO MAR. 24, 1977 WAS A YEAR OF HUNGER, TORTURE AND MURDER. NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

LA RAZON REPORTED THAT IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, THE CORPSES OF A WOMAN AND MAN APPARENTLY SHOT TO DEATH WERE FOUND BY POLICE. THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

ON MAR. 24, LA PRENSA REPORTED THAT AT 10 A.M. IN BERNAL, PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, A RETIRED ARGENTINE ARMY CAPTAIN WAS INTERCEPTED BY A GROUP OF TERRORISTS WHILE DRIVING HIS VEHICLE.

THEY ATTACKED #8., HE ESCAPED
AFTER SUFFERING INJURIES AND REQUIRED MEDICAL ATTENTION.
LA PRENSA ALSO REPORTED THAT AT
2 P.M. AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE HAD BEEN DETONATED IN THE
BUENOS AIRES STOCK EXCHANGE. ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE REPORTED.

MAR. 24: 0655 HRS, POLICE DISCOVERED A VEHICLE, FIAT 128,
WITH 2 BODIES INSIDE. THE BODIES HAD BEEN BURNED.

0725 HRS AT OLAVARRIA AND AZAR, POLICE REPORTED
A BOMB EXPLOSION. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

0730 HRS - AT APOLINARIO FIGUEROA AND AV. CORRIENTES,
A BOMB EXPLODED IN A SEGBA ELECTRICAL BOX.

0930 HRS - A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE GARAGE OF
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BUILDING AT DORREGO 2699. BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED
IN A VEHICLE. THERE WERE NO INJURIES BUT TWO
CARS WERE DESTROYED. (ARGENTINE MILITARY AND
EMBASSY PERSONNEL LIVE IN THIS BUILDING.)

1000 HRS - FEDERAL POLICE ORDERED ALL PATROL CARS
TO KEEP SPECIAL WATCH ON BUILDINGS OF THE ARMED
FORCES AND SECURITY FORCES AS PRECAUTION AGAINST
ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS.

2030 HRS - EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE LOCATED AT A
RENAULT CAR AGENCY LOCATED AT RIVADAVIA 3500. THE BOMB
DESTROYED THE AGENCY'S WINDOWS AND SOME OF THE CARS.
POLICE FOUND FLYERS OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DE LOS
TRABAJADORES (WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY). BOMB WAS
DETONATED AT SUIPACHA 815, LOCATION OF BANCO DE ITALIA Y
RIO DE LA PLATA. ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE WAS CAUSED. A BOMB
WAS EXPLODED AT RIVADAVIA AND PICHINCHA, BANCO DE GALICIA.
INCENDIARY BOMBS DESTROYED THREE CITY BUSES AT EACH OF
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: REPUBLICA DE LA INDIA AND LIBERTADOR
(PROXIMITY OF THE RESIDENCE), AT BARCOLA AND RIOJA AND
AT CALDERON DE LA BARCA AND BEIRO. DURING THE SAME PERIOD
POLICE FOUND SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES, SOME OF WHICH CON-
TAINED BOMBS AND SOME OF WHICH CONTAINED FAKE EXPLOSIVE
DEVICES, AT CORDOBA 1807; BOEDA 11; RIVADAVIA 3720,
BANCO DE GALICIA; RIVADAVIA 3200; RIVADAVIA AND 24 DE
NOVIEMBRE; CALLAO AND POSADAS, BANCO SUPERVIELLE, AND
AT SAENZ 1475.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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-----252321Z 114442 /63

R 252055Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9744

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 2306

2125 HRS - AT LA CABANA, ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN RESTAURANTS IN BUENOS AIRES, A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE WAS FOUND. POLICE BOMB SQUAD RESPONDED TO THE SCENE AND DISCOVERED THAT THE PACKAGE CONTAINED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. RESTAURANT WAS TEMPORARILY CLOSED AND POLICE MADE A FURTHER SEARCH OF THE PREMISES. (LA CABANA CATERS TO AN EXCLUSIVE CLIENTELE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHO IN THE PAST HAVE MET THERE REGULARLY.)

2210 HRS - AT ISABEL LA CATOLICA 1600 A CORPSE WAS FOUND. SUBJECT HAD BEEN SHOT REPEATEDLY. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

2220 HRS - SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES WERE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES: QUINTANA AND JUNIN; LORIA SUBWAY STATION; PASEO COLON 200, AND PERU AND JULIO ROCA.

2250 HRS - POLICE ORDERED THE ARREST OF A YOUNG FEMALE, IDENTIFY UNKNOWN, WHO WAS SEEN LEAVING AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AT ENTRE RIOS 648. SUSPECTED BOMBS WERE ALSO LOCATED AT LACARRA 1200 INSIDE
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A CITY BUS; TALCAHUANO 1600; RIVADAVIA AND R. PENA AND LARRAVIDA AND PASEO COLON.

MAR. 25: 0005 HRS AT GRAL PAZ AND AV ALBERDI SEVERAL HEAVILY ARMED FIRE SHOTS AT A CITY BUS. NO ONE WAS INJURED AND THE MEN ESCAPED IN A FORD CAR. DURING SAME PERIOD BOMBS WERE DISCOVERED AT GRAL PAZ AND SAN MARTIN; AT SARMIENTO AND MONTEVIDEO; AND AT URQUIZA RR LINE. BOMBS WERE DEACTIVATED BY THE BOMB SQUAD.

0450 HRS - A GROUP

OF MEN ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND MACHINE-GUNS ROBBED A PEUGEOT 504 AND A FALCON. THEY LEFT FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS IN BACKUP CARS. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSONS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 1100 HRS. A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE WAS DISCOVERED AT LA CABANA. THE BOMB SQUAD RESPONDED AND ASCERTAINED THAT PACKAGE CONTAINED EXPLOSIVES.

3. RSO MET WITH SENIOR FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED IN TERRORIST SUPPRESSION PERATIONS. HE STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE PLANNED INCREASED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT AND THAT THEY ARE STILL AN OPERATING FORCE. SOURCE STATED THAT THESE ATTACKS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF PLANTING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AND ATTACKS ON POLICE AND OTHER TARGETS HE STATED. THE MONTONEROS DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY FOR LARGE SCALE ATTACKS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND POLICE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ACTIVITY OF THAT SORT. SOURCE STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS ARE SUFFERING HIGH CASUALTIES IN ALL THEIR OPERATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE FORCED TO BE CAREFUL IN CHOOSING TARGETS. THE POLICE
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ESTIMATE THAT A MONTONERO ENGAGED IN AN ATTACK OPERATION AGAINST POLICE OR SECURITY FORCES HAS LESS THAN A 30 PERCENT CHANCE OF SURVIVAL. HOWEVER, INSPITE OF HEAVY CASUALTIES, THE MONTONEROS ARE STILL ACTIVE.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT THERE IS NO DISCERNIBLE THREAT TO EMBASSIES OR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL BUT THAT SUCH PERSONS SHOULD EXERCISE CARE BECAUSE THEY ARE ALWAYS POSSIBLE TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. A TERRORIST GROUP COULD SET OFF A BOMB AROUND OR IN AN EMBASSY WITH THE IDEA OF CREATING A SENSATIONAL INCIDENT WHICH WOULD BRING PUBLICITY TO THEIR MOVEMENT.

5. SOURCE STATED THAT TERRORISTS COULD AT A PROPER OPPORTUNITY CREATE AN INCIDENT THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE

DIRECTED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVT IN ORDER TO FURTHER BREACH
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GOA OR TO FOCUS FURTHER
INTERNATIONAL UNSAVORY ATTENTION ON THE GOA.
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